

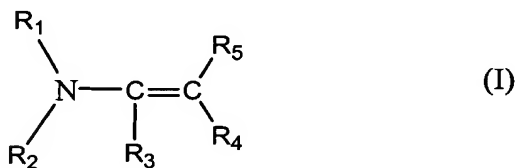
## IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-20 (Canceled).

Claim 21 (New): A method of accelerating the vulcanization of rubber, comprising:  
adding to a rubber an enamine derived from a secondary amine as a vulcanization  
accelerator,  
wherein said rubber vulcanizes more quickly with said enamine, than without said  
enamine.

Claim 22 (New): A method of accelerating the vulcanization of rubber, comprising:  
adding to a rubber an enamine having the formula (I) as a vulcanization accelerator:



wherein:

R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> are the same or different and represent a linear or branched-chain C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>18</sub> alkyl radical; a C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>18</sub> alkenyl radical; a C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkyl radical; a C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>18</sub> aryl radical; a C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> alkylaryl or arylalkyl radical; or R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub>, taken together with the nitrogen atom represent a C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> heterocyclic radical, optionally containing a second heteroatom selected from the group consisting of O, S and N;

R<sub>3</sub> and R<sub>4</sub> are the same or different and represent a hydrogen atom; a linear or branched-chain C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>18</sub> alkyl radical; a C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>18</sub> alkenyl radical; a C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>18</sub> aryl radical; a C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>

alkylaryl or arylalkyl radical; or R<sub>3</sub> and R<sub>4</sub> taken together with the C=C to which they are bonded represent a C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>12</sub> cycloalkenyl radical;

R<sub>5</sub> represents a hydrogen atom; a linear or branched-chain C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>18</sub> alkyl radical; a C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>18</sub>-alkenyl radical; or when R<sub>1</sub> represents a hydrogen atom, a linear or branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>18</sub> alkyl radical, a C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>18</sub> alkenyl radical, a C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>18</sub> aryl radical or a C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> alkylaryl or arylalkyl radical, or R<sub>4</sub> and R<sub>5</sub>, taken together with the carbon atom to which they are bonded, represent a C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>12</sub> cycloalkylenic radical;

wherein said rubber vulcanizes faster with said enamine than without said enamine.

Claim 23 (New): The method of Claim 22, wherein R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> are independently selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl, propyl, pentyl, hexyl, heptyl, ethylhexyl, butyl, octyl and phenyl.

Claim 24 (New): The method of Claim 22, wherein R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub>, taken together with the nitrogen atom, are a heterocyclic radical selected from the group consisting of morpholine, pyrrolidine, piperidine, piperazine, thiomorpholine, thiazolidine and benzothiazolidine.

Claim 25 (New): The method of Claim 22, wherein R<sub>3</sub> and R<sub>4</sub> are independently selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl, propyl, butyl and phenyl.

Claim 26 (New): The method of Claim 22, wherein R<sub>3</sub> and R<sub>4</sub>, taken together with the C=C of formula (I), are a cycloalkenylic radical selected from the group consisting of cyclopentene, cyclohexene, cycloheptene, cyclooctene and cyclododecene.

Claim 27 (New): The method of Claim 22, wherein  $R_5$  is selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl, propyl, butyl, hexyl and heptyl.

Claim 28 (New): The method of Claim 22, wherein  $R_4$  and  $R_5$ , taken together with the carbon atom which joins them, are cyclohexylidene or cyclooctylidene.

Claim 29 (New): The method of Claim 22, wherein said rubber is a synthetic rubber.

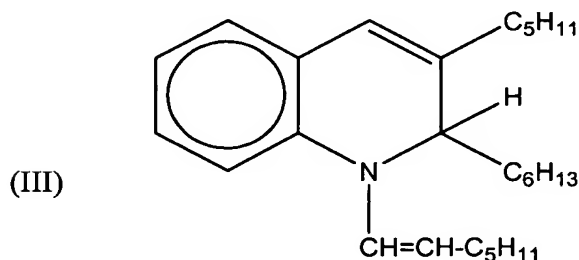
Claim 30 (New): The method of Claim 22, wherein said rubber is a natural rubber.

Claim 31 (New): The method of Claim 29, wherein said synthetic rubber is selected from a group consisting of SBR, NBR, BR and EPDM.

Claim 32 (New): The method of Claim 22, wherein said mixture further comprises a second vulcanization accelerator.

Claim 33 (New): The method of Claim 32, wherein said second vulcanization accelerator is a mercaptobenzothiazole sulfonamide.

Claim 34 (New): A method of accelerating the vulcanization of rubber, comprising:  
adding to a rubber an enamine formula (III) as a vulcanization accelerator:



wherein said rubber vulcanizes faster with said enamine than without said enamine.

Claim 35 (New): The method of Claim 34, wherein said rubber is a synthetic rubber.

Claim 36 (New): The method of Claim 34, wherein said rubber is a natural rubber.

Claim 37 (New): The method of Claim 34, wherein said rubber is a synthetic rubber selected from the group consisting of SBR, NBR, BR and EPDM.

Claim 38 (New): The method of Claim 22, wherein said enamine is the only vulcanization accelerator.

### BASIS FOR THE AMENDMENT

The original claims have been substituted by claims limiting the invention to the use of the defined enamines by method claims. No new matter has been introduced thereby.